

Application No.: 09/823,441
Amendment

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 10 and 12 have been amended, and no claims have been canceled or added. Therefore, claims 10 and 12 are pending in the application.

Examiner Telephone Interview Canceled

The undersigned had previously attempted to schedule an interview with the Examiner, but Applicants ultimately decided not to request an interview. However, if the Examiner has any questions regarding this response please give the undersigned a telephone call.

Extension of Time

A petition and fee for a two-month extension of time to respond is included herewith to extend the period for response to July 2, 2004.

Advisory Action Requested

If this amendment does not result in a Notice of Allowance, Applicants respectfully request a timely Advisory Action as quickly as possible given that the final six-month deadline is approaching.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner continues to reject claims 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brogan et al., "Group Behavior for Systems with Significant Dynamics". Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Examiner is interpreting the recalculated layout of each iteration of Brogan et al.'s simulation to be a target layout. (See Final Office Action mailed 02/02/2004, page 4,

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lines 4-5). The Examiner reasons that the adjustment of the velocity of Brogan et al.'s robots leads to the replacement of the assignments in each of these target layouts. (See Final Office Action mailed 02/02/2004, page 3, bottom paragraph).

However, it appears to Applicants that in Brogan et al. the velocities of the robots are adjusted so that the robots eventually end up in the originally determined "global desired position" mentioned by the Examiner. This means that the assignments of the locations in the "global desired position" are not replaced, which means that the assignments of the locations in the final target layout are not replaced.

Applicants' concept of replacing the assignments of the locations in the target layout is illustrated in FIG. 4 of Applicants' application. In that figure, if there is no role replacement, then the state space 401 becomes equal to state space 402 and the target layout 410 is preserved. But if role replacement is performed, then the state space 401 becomes equal to state space 403 and the assignment of locations in the target layout 410 is changed from state space 401.

Applicants have amended their claims 10 and 12 to recite replacing the assignments of the locations in the target layout "in a stable state" within K! combinations of only the selected K members. This amendment is supported by Applicants' specification as filed at, for example, page 13, line 23 to page 14, line 1. With this amendment, the claims cover replacing the assignments of the locations in the target layout in the final (steady) state, rather than the recalculated layout of each iteration of the simulation. This amendment is consistent with the Examiner's statement that "Applicant is interpreting the layout of [Brogan et al.'s] robots at steady state to be the target layout". (Final Office Action mailed 02/02/2004, page 4, lines 3-4). Brogan

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et al. does not disclose replacing the assignments of the locations in the target layout in the final (steady) state because, again, the velocities of Brogan et al.'s robots are adjusted so that the robots eventually end up in the originally determined "global desired position" in the final (steady) state. Therefore, the rejections of Applicants' amended independent claims 10 and 12 must be withdrawn.

Finally, Applicants submit that the amendment to claims 10 and 12 does not raise any new issues that require further search and consideration. This is because the Examiner has already considered that Applicant is interpreting the layout of Brogan et al.'s robots at steady state to be the target layout.

Fees Believed to be Due

A Fee Transmittal is included herewith to cover the fee for the two-month extension of time to respond.

No other fees are believed to be due for this amendment.

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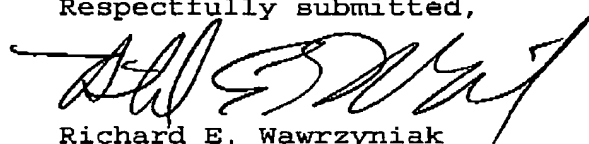
C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Richard E. Wawrzyniak at (858)552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated

6/25/04



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